

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 A-01 ABF-01 AID-05

L-03 EPA-04 CEQ-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 EB-08 IO-14

ACDA-12 MCT-01 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 NRC-07 NSC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 PER-05

/138 W

-----044721 211144Z /43

R 181947Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, XM, JM

SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. JAMAICA IS ONE OF THE MOST ENERGY-INTENSIVE NATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THE COUNTRY IS OVER 90 PERCENT DEPENDENT UPON IMPORTED FUEL. IT IS EMBARKED UPON A LONG-RANGE PROGRAM TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE UPON IMPORTED OIL, PRIMARILY BY DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE, NON-TRADITIONAL ENERGY SOURCES.

2. NEXT IN IMPORTANCE AS AN ISSUE REQUIRING PRIORITY ATTENTION IS THE FOOD AREA, BECAUSE OF THE GOJ'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED NUTRITION AND, AGAIN, BECAUSE OF THE COUNTRY'S HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODS. DEVELOPING VARIOUS FEEDING PROGRAMS, BASED UPON INDIGENOUS PRODUCTS AND SEEKING TO RAISE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVE LAND USE WILL BE OBJECTS OF CONSIDERABLE GOJ ACTIVITY.

3. THE GOJ HAS MADE FAMILY PLANNING AN URGENT PRIORITY FOR MANY YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. OTHER IMPORTANT UNCLASSIFIED

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S AND T ISSUES RELATE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATION, THE LATTER BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY JAMAICA, ALONG WITH MANY OF THE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

4. IF JAMAICA'S WISH TO BECOME THE SITE OF THE SEABED AUTHORITY IS FULFILLED, THERE WOULD BE ENHANCED INTEREST IN OCEAN-RELATED ISSUES.

5. IN ALMOST ALL OF THE S AND T AREAS, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. IN FACT, USAID/JAMAICA IS PROJECTING SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FIELDS AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES IN NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE AND APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY.

6. EXISTING STAFF IS NOT ABLE TO HANDLE THE WORK-LOAD ASSOCIATED WITH AN EXPANSION OF S AND T ISSUES. ADDITIONAL MAN-POWER IS NEEDED. BECAUSE OF JAMAICA'S INTERESTS AND REQUIREMENTS, AND BECAUSE OF U.S. POLICY TO PROMOTE CARIBBEAN REGIONALISM, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE ASSIGNMENT OF A REGIONAL SCIENCE ATTACHE, TO BE POSTED IN KINGSTON FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR. THE ATTACHE WOULD NEED SECRETARIAL SUPPORT. IF POSSIBLE, THE ATTACHE SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH A.I.D.
HAVERKAMP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENCE ATTACHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST04147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-0056
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780546/aaaabmhk.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ecc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 118666
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2653490
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, XM, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ecc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014